

GBTU Letter to MDEQ

October 3, 2016

MDEQ Back Forty Comments
Office of Oil, Gas, and Minerals
1504 West Washington Street
Marquette, Mi 49855
DEQ-Mining-Comments@michigan.gov

Re: Back Forty Project Comments

Gary Borger Trout Unlimited Chapter (GBTU) members (400+???????????) are totally against the approval of the Back Forty Mine Application Permit. GBTU is a conservation oriented group.

Based on member interest in fishing the Menominee River for game fish, such as, smallmouth bass, pike and muskies, etc. and for the nearby environment we don't want the river and Lake Michigan damaged or destroyed from the numerous sources of pollution this proposed mine will create.

Aquila Resources and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality have admitted that this proposed mine will contaminate/pollute the Menominee River and Lake Michigan in the approved NPDES permit (Permit # MI0059945). The permit states in the ANTIDegradation section "...that lowering of water quality is necessary to support the identified....development in the area." Lowering of the water quality means that pollutants from the mine site will damage or destroy the river life. This isn't good for people, river life, animal life, plants, etc.

In addition to water pollution the operation of the proposed mine will produce noise pollution 24 hours a day. The nearby residents, especially those that live across the river from the mine site, will suffer continuously for the life of the mine due to blasting, operation of heavy equipment, ore processing, etc. It's only two or three hundred yards from the mine site to these residents homes and these noises will reach them. They have already been tortured by the mine drilling program that's been going on for a long time.

Aquila's economic study doesn't fully address the lost business that this proposed mine will cause. Visitors to the area won't come here anymore because of the noise and air pollution. These lost visitors are fishermen, boaters, kayaker's, canoeists won't come here anymore. That means that fishing guide services will end and hotels, restaurants, gas stations, etc. will lose lots of business. Why do these people/businesses have to suffer economically because of this proposed mine?

The Gary Borger Trout Unlimited Chapter is totally opposed to the Back Forty Project. Please deny their requested mine permit and protect the environment.